

A CLOUD OF SWALLOWS.

Hundreds of Thousands of the Birds Take Possession of a Vessel.

The crew and passengers of a Russian steamer, engaged in the Mediterranean trade, recently had an experience that will never be forgotten by them. A storm of swallows swooped down upon the vessel and delayed it for many hours.

The passage had been an unusually stormy one, but this day was fine. Most of the passengers were on deck. Suddenly a black cloud appeared in the distance and moved toward them with terrific force. Everybody became frightened at the mysterious visitation. A solution of the mystery came shortly. The vast cloud was composed of swallows. The forerunners, a small detachment of some 10,000, swooped down on the deck, to the bewilderment of the people on board. These were soon followed, not by thousands, but by hundreds of thousands. The birds literally overwhelmed the vessel. The man at the wheel lost his bearings and the wildest disorder prevailed. The birds poured into every available opening, hatchways, windows and everywhere else. They got tangled in the ropes and sails and clustered about the rigging. Even the smokestacks were so filled up one time that the fires were nearly extinguished. The most amazing part of the whole thing was that the birds did not evince any disposition to leave. To heighten the confusion the steamer had got out of its course and ran ashore. However, on account of going very slowly, no material damage was done, though the passengers were badly frightened.

When the crew had recovered from their amazement they began to clear the deck and the vessel in general of these unexpected and not at all welcome guests. The captain ordered the men to use shovels and whatever else they could to throw the birds overboard. After getting fairly in shape the vessel proceeded on its voyage, having been delayed for eight hours on account of this singular experience. The captain could not offer any theory as to where the vast army of swallows came from. All he said was that the birds were exhausted from a long flight during the storm of the previous day and sought rest on his vessel.

Personal.

ANY ONE who has been benefited by the use of Dr. Williams' Pink Pills will receive information of much value and interest by writing to "Pink Pills," P. O. Box 1592, Philadelphia.

POPULAR SCIENCE.

The human system can endure heat of 212 degrees, a boiling point of water, because the skin is a bad conductor, and because the perspiration cools the body. Men have withstood without injury a heat of 300 degrees for several minutes.

It is not generally known that when metal is reduced to a very fine powder it will combine with the air upon mere contact with that element, and oxidizes so rapidly that heat is sensibly produced. Metal prepared in this way requires only to be precipitated through the air in a thin stream to take fire and burn.

Kite flying, which used to be done for fun, has arisen to the dignity of a scientific experiment. Two sets of such experiments are in progress—one under the direction of the Weather Bureau at Washington, and the other at Blue Hill, near Boston, conducted by W. A. Eddy, of New Jersey. Not only do the experimenters send the kites up several thousand feet, but they send up cameras with them, and get pictures of the landscape from that altitude. The ostensible purpose of the scientific kite flying is to find out as much as possible about the atmosphere and its currents, barometric curves, temperature and other ingredients; but no doubt it is just as good fun to fly a scientific kite as any other sort, and no doubt the scientific grown-ups enjoy it.

Never wear cotton in the ears if they are discharging pus.

Strong Hood's Sarsaparilla

Muscles, steady nerves, good appetite, refreshing sleep come with blood made pure by Hood's Sarsaparilla.

The One True Blood Purifier. All druggists. \$1.

Hood's Pills are the best after-dinner pills.

DR. T. FELIX GOURAUD'S ORIENTAL DREAM OINTMENT FOR SKIN AFFECTIONS.

Removes Tan, Pimples, Freckles, Moth Patches, Rash and Skin Diseases, and every blemish on beauty, and cures itching, and restores the skin to its natural color. It has stood the test of 47 years, and is so harmless we test it to be sure it is properly made. It is a counterfeited of similar name. Dr. T. A. Sayre said to a lady of the Haut-Cote (patients): "As you ladies will use them, I recommend 'Gouraud's Cream' as the best for the skin." For sale by all Druggists and Fancy Goods Dealers in the United States, Canada and Europe.

FERD. T. HOPKINS, Prop'r, 27 Great Jones Street, N. Y.

'THE MIDDLE SOUTH'

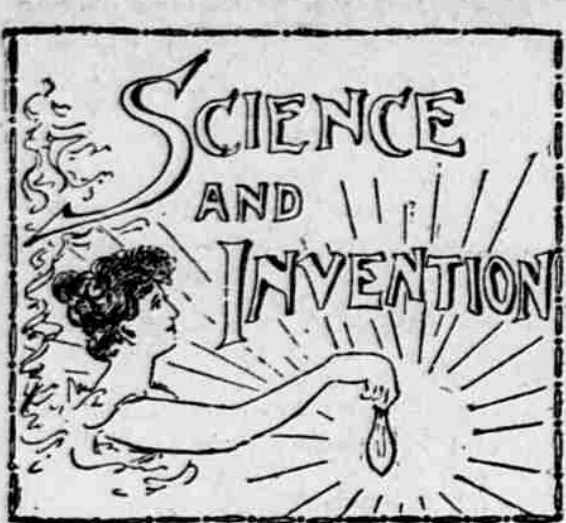
A handsomely illustrated 16-page Monthly Journal describing the development of the Middle South, the farmer's paradise. Price 50 cents per year. Send 25 cents at once, mentioning this paper, and you will receive "The Middle South" for one year. It is a free tree; or, if you secure four subscribers at \$1.00 each, we will send your paper one year free of charge. Address: Middle South Pub. Co., Somerville, Tenn.

KIDDER'S PASTILLES. Solely for the treatment of the throat, by mail, Stowell & Co., Charleston, S.C.

DOSE EYES DR. ISAAC THOMPSON'S EYE WATER.

PISO'S CURE FOR CURS WHICH ALL ELSE FAILS. Best Cough Syrup. Use in time. Sold by druggists.

CONSUMPTION.



Saw a Meteoric Stone Fall.

Mr. J. F. Black, a farmer, living about nine miles from Ottawa, Kan., saw a small meteorite fall on his land late in the afternoon of April 9 last, and going to the spot where it fell, picked it up. It weighs thirty-one ounces and contains a little iron, but consists in the main of stony material.

New Zealand's Gems.

Agate-hunters from Germany are now exploring New Zealand with very promising results. Blue and white topaz and splendid specimens of amethyst have been discovered by them, as well as large pieces of quartz so filled with slender, rutile crystals as to resemble masses of matted hair.

Java's Man-Ape.

Prof. Marsh, of Yale, has recently announced his opinion that the remarkable remains of a skull, teeth and other fossil bones found by Dr. Dubois in Java belonged to an animal that "was not human but represented a form intermediate between man and the higher apes." This opinion confirms the belief of the discoverer of the bones, who called the animal pithecanthropos, or "ape-man." The bones were found in ancient volcanic deposits, and belong, Prof. Marsh thinks, to the age known as the Pliocene.

New Kind of Kites.

Meteorologists are now trying to study the atmosphere high above the ground with the aid of self-recording barometers and thermometers, etc., sent up in kites. This has resulted in a great improvement in the forms of kites, which are now constructed on scientific principles. At the headquarters of the Weather Bureau in Washington box-shaped kites, with open ends and sides partly covered with silk, are used. Instead of twine or cord, fine piano wire is employed to hold the kite. At the Blue Hill Observatory, near Boston, box-shaped kites have been sent up to an elevation of almost a mile above sea-level.

A Phosphorescent Party.

Monsieur Henry, of the Paris Academy of Sciences, has invented a phosphorescent starch with which surprising effects can be produced. Used as a face-powder, it makes the countenance glow in a dark room with mysterious radiance. Recently a "5-o'clock tea" was given in Paris after dark, no light being employed except that supplied by phosphorescent starch sprinkled over everything in the room. The carpet, the ceiling, the pictures on the walls, the furniture, the teacups, the flowers, the faces, shoulders and dresses of the ladies all glowed and gleamed, making a spectacle that was at once startling and beautiful.

Oldest Man in the World.

According to statistics collected in Germany the oldest man known to be living anywhere on the earth is Bruno Cotrim, a negro born in Africa, but now living in Rio Janeiro. Upon the same authority is based the seemingly incredible statement that there are 3,883 persons living in Bulgaria, each of whom has reached, or passed, the age of 100 years, making one centenarian to every 1,000 inhabitants of that country! Germany, with a population of 52,000,000, claims only 78 centenarians, and France, with a population of 40,000,000, 213 centenarians, while Ireland, whose population numbers only 4,600,000, has 578 centenarians.

Destroying Friction.

After calling attention to the fact that man was content with the use of oil to keep machinery in running order until he began to ride the bicycle, when he demanded some better labor-saver and invented ball-bearings, the Scientific American proceeds to illustrate and describe some recent applications of such bearings. They are employed for wagon and carriage wheels, for the carrier-wheels of cable roads, and for the shafts of swift-running machinery. They practically dispense with the use of the oil and greatly reduce the amount of friction to be overcome, thus adding to the effective power of all machines in which they are used. The singular fact is noted that Prof. Boys, of London, showed experimentally that ball-bearings, when properly constructed, are practically proof against wear. He demonstrated this fact by weighing the balls of a bicycle-bearing when they were new, and again after they had been subjected to long service. They showed no loss of weight.

American Soapstone.

In the Ragged Mountains, in Albemarle County, Virginia, the scene of one of Poe's weird tales, exists a great deposit of soapstone which is said to be the finest in the world. It was discovered only about twelve years ago, but now a small colony exists at the spot and three quarries have been opened. The stone, which is very hard and fine-grained, is cut out in blocks averaging nine tons in weight, and afterward is sawed into slabs. It is employed, among other things, for tanks in chemical laboratories, tubs and sinks in laundries, linings for fireplaces, griddles, which need no greasing when made of soapstone, tables and fittings in hospitals and dissecting-rooms. Acid is said to have no effect upon the stone.

Does Woman Earn Her Keep?

Thousands of women work in the mines of Belgium, England and Cornwall. In the first-named country they

formerly worked from twelve to sixteen hours a day, with no Sunday rest. The linen-thread spinners of New Jersey, according to the report of the Labor Commissioner, are "in one branch of the industry compelled to stand on a stone floor in water the year round, most of the time barefoot, with a spray of water from a revolving cylinder flying constantly against the breast; and the coldest night in winter, as well as the warmest in summer, these poor creatures must go to their homes with water dripping from their underclothing along their path, because there could not be space or a few moments allowed them wherein to change their clothing." Yet women are "exempted" from labor attended by hardship!

Despite these washerwomen, miners and linen-thread spinners, we are told "it is woman's privilege generally to be exempted from the care of earning her livelihood and that of her offspring."

It would seem to be time that this libel upon woman should be scorned by fair-minded men. From all antiquity the majority of women have been faithful workers, rendering a full equivalent in labor for their scanty share of the world's goods. The origin of every industry bears testimony to this. In our own era, while women were still homekeepers, did they not earn their livelihood? What was the weaving, the sewing, the cooking, the doctoring, the nursing, the child care, "the work that was never done," if it was not earning a subsistence? Even in these days, when woman goes forth and receives the reward of her labor as publicly as man, she is no more worthy of her hire. Her ancestress—sweet and saintly soul!—did not dream of recompense. But was it not her due, and shall we refuse to credit it because man was then a self-sufficient ignoramus who deemed himself the only one fit to acquire property?—Popular Science Monthly.

Will Not Submit to Dictation.

The subject of renewing the privileges of the Bank of France will shortly come up for discussion in the chamber, after having been in abeyance since 1892, when the senate approved a bill for the purpose. The bill has not since been modified and the provisions included in it will, it is thought, be adopted without material alteration. One of them, which was to empower the bank to increase its note issue from 3,500,000,000 francs to 4,000,000,000, was passed as far back as 1893. The charter expires on Dec. 31, 1897, and the proposal is to extend it for a period of twenty years from that date, in consideration of the bank making certain concessions to the state.

Among these concessions is one by which the bank is to forego all future interest on the government debt, 140,000,000 francs, and not to demand repayment of the capital so long as the charter is in force. The bank is to undertake the service of the national debt and transact other business for the treasury, both at the head office and branches, free of charge, and make an annual payment to the latter for 2,000,000 francs during the first year of the currency of the new charter and 2,500,000 francs per annum subsequently. It is to open several new branches and make advances to agricultural co-operative societies.

It is not improbable that an effort will be made to convert the bank into a state institution, but such a project does not command support either in financial or ministerial circles, and is not in the least degree likely to meet with success.—Edinburgh Scotsman.

Interviewing Casey.

A reporter of a New York daily once went to the office of the late General Casey to get some information concerning the Lydecker tunnel story. General Casey looked at the young man rather sternly at first, and the reporter expected but scant detail to follow. "Come in, sir!" he exclaimed, in a tone of almost unpleasant command. The two doors of his office were open. The reporter was standing. The general, without a word, went to one door and closed it with the utmost precision; then he went to the other door and closed it with the same precision. The reporter was in doubt. The two were in the room alone. Coming up to the newspaper man, he pointed his index finger straight at his eye, and said: "Sit down there, young man, and I'll tell you the—st story you ever heard." And he did.

Edison's Speech.

Mr. Edison has only once tried to make a speech. It was before a girls' seminary, where he had agreed to lecture on electricity. He had engaged a friend named Adams to operate the apparatus while he talked; but when the "Wizard" arose before his audience, he felt so dazed that he simply said: "Ladies, Mr. Adams will now address you on electricity, and I will demonstrate what he has to say with the apparatus."

Heard While Waiting.

A passenger, while waiting at a railway station for his train, amused himself by watching the queer looks and antics of a tailless cat as it looked about on the platform. The stationmaster happened to pop out of his office, the intending traveler pointed to the cat and said, "What kind of a cat is that—Manx?" "No," replied the stationmaster, with a sly smile, "Brighton Express."

A Vacuum.

A perfect vacuum is a perfect insulator. It is possible to exhaust a tube so perfectly that no electric machine can send a spark through the vacuum space, even when the space is only one centimeter.

A woman should at least be grateful for one thing: she is never asked to be a pallother.

TURNED DOWN BY A WIDOW.

The Old Man Did Not Seek to Discover the Reason.

I had been stopping for a day or two with a mountaineer named Collins, who had been a widower for several years, and had grown-up children, and as I was ready to proceed on my journey he said he'd go along for a couple of miles, says the Detroit Free Press. As we walked along he suddenly broke out with:

"See here stranger, do you think I'm fitten to git married ag'in?"

"Why not?" I queried in reply.

"Dunno, but I thought I'd ax yo'."

"You are not an old man yet, are fairly well off, and unless the children raise a row I don't see why you shouldn't marry again."

"No, the children won't raise a row about it."

"Who is the woman in question, if I may ask?"

"The Widder White, who lives up yere 'bout a mile. Powerful nice woman, the widder is. Bin sorter junia' up to her for a y'ar past, but hain't cum to the p'int. I sorter reckoned—sorter reckoned—"

"Sorter reckoned what?" I asked, as he stammered and paused.

"Sorter reckoned I might stop and ax her this mawnin', if yo' reckoned I was fitten," he finished.

"Why shouldn't you be fitten?"

"Dunno, but maybe I ain't."

I did all I could to assure him on that point, and before we reached the widder's house it was agreed that I should go on a piece and wait for him, and after he had talked with Mrs. White he should come on and tell me the result. I hadn't waited ten minutes before he came hurrying along, and I knew by his looks that something was wrong.

"Well, how did you come out?" I asked, as he took a seat on the stone beside me.

"I wa'n't fitten," he replied.

"But why not?"

"Dunno. I jest went in and axed the widder if she'd have me, and she said I wa'n't fitten and run me over the bresh fence with a broomstick."

"And you didn't ask for any explanation?"

"Nary one. When a man hain't fitten, and a woman says he hain't fitten, what yo' gwine to do? If yo' fitten yo's all right; if yo's unfitten then yo' ain't fitten and it's no use to ax about it or waste time. Mawnin', stranger; I'm gwine back home and git to work at the co'n."

A HORSE IN THE NAVY.

Official Regulations a Little Vague as to the Treatment of Live Stock.

Several years ago a band of naval officers was ordered by the commandant of one of our naval stations to hold a survey on one of the horses belonging to the station. The board met, examined the horse, found that he was suffering from "the scratches" and "string-bait," and was generally run down. An examination of the navy regulations showed that only certain recommendations could be made by the board, as follows:

"To be turned into store for use." "To be retained in or for use." "Sold." "Used for scrap metal." "To be issued for any other purpose." "To be thrown on the dump." "To be transferred to some other station." "To be used for repairs for some other article." or "To be extensively repaired." Since it was the unanimous opinion of the board that the horse ought to be treated by a veterinary surgeon, it was recommended, in conformity with the regulations, "that he be extensively repaired."

This was three or four years ago, and he was "extensively repaired" by a veterinary surgeon, but evidently the "repairs" were not lasting, as the sequel will show.

Recently there came a recommendation from the present commandant that the horse be shot, as he was old and worthless, and that it would be a kindness to put him out of his misery.

In the same mail came a requisition from the same commandant asking for authority to buy ten tons of A1, first-class fertilizer.

It was then that the navy department endorsed on the requisition "Why not use the horse to produce the fertilizer?"

The commandant promptly returned the paper with the endorsement, "Since the horse is not an A1, first-class horse, being old and decrepit, he is incapable of filling the bill."

And here the matter stands for the present.—Washington Star.

Thinning Grape Bunches.

Every bud of last year will make this year a shoot, and by the first of June will be set with two, three or four buds for blossoming, thus showing how many clusters may be expected from it. The quality of the fruit will be greatly benefited by removing from each shoot all the buds except the two that are largest. These will grow to larger size and ripen earlier if the full strength of the shoot is concentrated into them. It is the multiplication of seeds that makes grape fruiting so exhaustive to the vine. It requires an abundance of potash to form the seed and to ripen and color the fruit. When an overloaded vine mildews just about the time the grapes are half grown, it is a certain indication that potash is deficient. But even where plenty of potash has been provided, the thinning of the bunches should not be neglected.

Glass Bearings.

It is reported that recent experiments have proved that glass bearings can be successfully used for shafts of light machinery driven at high speed. The glass, it is said, keeps cool and requires but little oil. The bearing is formed by pouring melted glass around the shaft, which has first been accurately turned in the center of its box. A few turns of the shaft, as the glass is cooling, prevent adhesion.

Russian Distances.

One gets an idea of the magnificent distances of the Czar's realm from learning that a Russian general who was in a hurry to get to St. Petersburg from Vladivostok found the time saving route was to go to Yokohama by steamer, thence by another steamer across the Pacific to San Francisco, by rail to New York, and by steamer to Europe. The gap between the finished sections of the Transsiberian Railroad is so many hundred miles in length that the general would have lost time in traversing the wilds of that vast country, where horses furnish all the transport.

That Terrible Scurvy.

Malarial disease is invariably supplemented by disturbance of the liver, the bowels, the stomach and the nerves. To the removal of both the cause and its effects, Hostetter's Stomach Bitters is fully adequate. It "fills the bill" as no other remedy does, performing its work thoroughly. Its ingredients are pure and wholesome, and it admirably serves to build up a system broken by ill-health and ebriety of strength. Constipation, liver and kidney complaint and nervousness are conquered by it.

Never meddle with the ear if a foreign body, such as a bead, button or seed enters it. Leave it absolutely alone until a physician can attend to it. More damage has been done by the injudicious attempts at the extraction of a foreign body than could ever come from its presence in the ear.

Special Hot Springs, S. D. Excursion.

July 31st, August 14th and August 28th, tickets will be sold from Sioux City to Hot Springs and return, good 30 days, at rate of \$14.80.

H. C. CHEYNEY, General Agent, Sioux City, Iowa.

Never put milk, fat nor any oily substance into the ear for the relief of pain, for they soon become rancid and tend to excite inflammation. Simple warm water will answer the purpose better than anything else.

Hall's Catarrh Cure

Is a constitutional cure. Price 75 cents.

Thiers, the historian of the French Revolution, and afterwards president of France, was the son of a locksmith.—Occident.

Cardinal Antonelli's father was an Italian bandit.

Pico's Cure for Consumption is the best of all cough cures.—George W. Lotz, Fabacher, La., Aug. 20, 1895.

The father of Samuel Pepys was a tailor.

Ever since 1865 there have been women (more each year) who claim that there is no soap half as good, or so economical as "Dobbin's" Electric. They must be some truth in their claim. Try it, see how much. Your grocer has it.

Shakespeare's father was a wool merchant.

Mrs. Winslow's Soothing Syrup for Children settling, soothes the gums, reduces inflammation, allays pain, cures wind colic. 25 cents a bottle.



Gladness Comes

With a better understanding of the transient nature of the many physical ills which vanish before proper efforts—gentle efforts—pleasant efforts—rightly directed. There is comfort in the knowledge that so many forms of sickness are not due to any actual disease, but simply to a constipated condition of the system, which the pleasant family laxative, Syrup of Figs, promptly removes. That is why it is the only remedy with millions of families, and is everywhere esteemed so highly by all who value good health. Its beneficial effects are due to the fact, that it is the one remedy which promotes internal cleanliness, without debilitating the organs on which it acts. It is therefore all important, in order to get its beneficial effects, to note when you purchase, that you have the genuine article, which is manufactured by the California Fig Syrup Co. only, and sold by all reputable druggists.

If in the enjoyment of good health, and the system is regular, then laxatives or other remedies are not needed. If afflicted with any actual disease, one may be recommended to the most skillful physicians, but if in need of a laxative, then one should have the best, and with the well-informed everywhere, Syrup of Figs stands highest and is most largely used and gives most general satisfaction.

UNIVERSITY OF NOTRE DAME

The 103d Session Will Open TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 3d, 1896. Full Courses in Classics, Letters, Science, Law, Civil and Mechanical Engineering. Thorough Preparatory and Commercial Courses. St. Edward's Hall for boys under 13 is unique in the completeness of its equipment. Catalogues sent free on application to REV. ANDREW MORRISSEY, Notre Dame, Ind.

SOUTHERN LANDS and HOMES

In the garden spot of West Tennessee can be secured on easy terms. Fertile soil, genial climate and fine transportation facilities are the inducements that are urging the Southern farmer here in large numbers. Write SOUTHERN HOMESSEKERS' LAND CO., Somerville, Fayette County, Tennessee.

PENSIONS, PATENTS, CLAIMS.

JOHN W. MORRIS, WASHINGTON, D. C. Late Principal Examiner U. S. Pension Bureau. 3 yrs. in last war, 15 adjudicating claims, 4000 sent free on application to REV. ANDREW MORRISSEY, Notre Dame, Ind.

PATENTS. TRADE-MARKS.

Examination and advice as to Patentability of inventions. Send for Inventors' Guide, on How to Get a Patent. Patrick O'Farrell, Washington, D.C.

BATTLE AX

BATTLE AX

BIG AND GOOD.

Battle Ax PLUG

Sometimes quality is sacrificed in the effort to give big quantity for little money. No doubt about that. But once in a while it isn't. For instance, there's "BATTLE AX." The piece is bigger than you ever saw before for 5 cents. And the quality is, as many a man has said, "mighty good." There's no guess work in this statement. It is just a plain fact. You can prove it by investing 5 cents in "BATTLE AX."

BATTLE AX

BATTLE AX

"A Handful of Dirt May Be a Houseful of Shame." Keep Your House Clean with

SAPOLIO

EVERY FARMER IN THE NORTH CAN MAKE MORE MONEY IN THE MIDDLE SOUTH.

He can make twice as much. He can sell his Northern farm and get twice as many acres for his money down here. We sell improved farms for \$5 to \$20 an acre. Plenty of railroads—four of them. No droughts. Neither too hot nor too cold—climate just right. Northern farmers are coming every week. If you are interested write for free pamphlet, and ask all the questions you want to. It is a pleasure to us to answer them.

SOUTHERN HOMESSEKERS' LAND COMPANY, Somerville, Tenn.